

Hawaiian Gazette

LATEST CABLED SUGAR QUOTATIONS			
96° Centrifugal N. Y.	Cents	Dollars	
Price, Hawaiian basis	5.27	per lb	per ton
Last previous quotation	5.36	\$107.20	

VOL. IX, NO. 20

HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1916.—SEMI-WEEKLY.

WHOLE NUMBER 4211

VILLA LEADS RAID INTO BORDER TOWN OF COLUMBUS, NEW MEXICO

Mexicans Loot and Burn Property, Kill Civilians and Battle With Cavalrymen

SEVEN TROOPERS ARE SLAIN AND FIVE WOUNDED IN MORNING FIGHT



Greasers Are Driven Back Over Line and More Than One Hundred Die

(Associated Press By Federal Wireless)

WASHINGTON, March 10.—A force of Mexicans, variously estimated at between seven hundred and fifteen hundred, raided across the New Mexican line yesterday, attacking by surprise the little town of Columbus and giving battle to a small force of American cavalrymen stationed there. Repulsed by the Americans, the Mexicans fled back to their own territory, pursued into Mexico by the American troops. Yesterday afternoon, five miles south of the border, the Mexican rearguard turned to give battle and a smart engagement was fought.

TROOPERS COME BACK

Late last night the Americans returned, being in insufficient force to meet the enemy, which includes the main Villista army, numbering between one thousand and fifteen hundred well armed men.

It is now expected that the Villistas will return for a second raid, the little village of Deming being picked out as the next point of attack. The residents there are preparing to defend themselves. The women and children have been brought together in the school house, which is barricaded with sandbags, while the men are armed and on the alert.

MEXICAN SIGNALS FLASH

Until late in the night the signals being exchanged between the various Villa detachments could be seen flashing in the sky.

The whole border is alert and all steps are being taken to prevent any further surprises.

In the fighting at Columbus, fifteen Americans, including one woman, were killed. Of these eight were civilians and seven

troopers of the Thirteenth Cavalry. Five cavalrymen were wounded. The Mexican loss is reported to be in the neighborhood of three hundred, of whom one hundred were killed.

The pursuing troopers, in the fighting in Mexico, have lost one private killed and a number of wounded, including Capt. George Williams, adjutant.

VILLA LEADS RAIDERS

The Mexican raiders are led by Pancho Villa in person, whose presence, on the border was known for the past several days. He was believed to be endeavoring to make his way across the line into the United States on a peaceable mission, intending to proceed to Washington to make a personal explanation to President Wilson of the conditions in Mexico, and to enter a personal denial of complicity in any way with the massacre of Americans at St. Ysabel.

Columbus, the scene of the invasion by Villa and his bandits, is a small village almost directly on the line, some seventy miles

Staff of General Francisco Villa With His Army On March

west of El Paso. Here the headquarters of the Thirteenth Cavalry have been temporarily established, with the machine gun detachment and troops E, F, G, H, K, L and M at the temporary station. Yesterday only three troops were in camp when the raid took place, the other troops being on patrol duty along the border, east and west.

SENTRY FIRST TO FALL

It was shortly before four o'clock, and still dark when the sentry, Private Griffin, caught sight of a body of mounted men moving toward the house occupied by Lieut. J. P. Lucas. His challenge brought no response from the Mexicans and the soldier fired, killing one of the raiders. Instantly a ragged fire broke out from the underbrush, and the Mexicans leading the attack scattered, as they began to fire. One of the bullets struck Griffin, who was, therefore, the first man to fall on the American side. His stand, had given Lieutenant Lucas time in which to leave the house and get the machine-gun platoon into position.

In the meantime the alarm brought the men of the three troops of Cavalry into the streets of the little town, and under the command of Col. Herbert J. Slocum, who was armed with a revolver, there began the fight that may result in a final settlement of the long vexed Mexican problem.

There were less than two hundred of the Americans and they had been taken by surprise by an overwhelming number of Mexicans, for in a few moments after the alarm the underbrush and the outlying shacks poured hundreds of the bandits upon the soldiers.

MANY CIVILIANS KILLED

It was then that the worst of the fighting was done and it was during that time that the flying bullets killed many of the civilians. But the weight of numbers carried the attacking party in to the streets of the town and for a time the fighting was hand-to-hand, the superior discipline of the troopers alone enabling them to stand against their assailants. So close were the fighters that a Mexican knocked the revolver out of Colonel Slocum's hand.

The Villistas appeared to have had special information regarding the location of the officers' houses, and their attack was directed chiefly at headquarters, the home of the commissioned officers and the hotel, where a number of civilians were sleeping when the attack opened. The battle had not lasted long when a party of the Mexicans set fire to the hostelry, and, when the guests and the proprietor attempted to flee from the flames, several of them were shot down by the waiting robbers.

WOMAN AMONG SLAIN

The Mexicans set fire to buildings, after looting them, and shot

down a number of the fleeing civilians. In the melee, Mrs. Milton James, the only woman to be killed, was shot. Some of the deaths to civilians came in the burning of the Central Hotel, two or three of the guests and the proprietor, A. L. Ritchie, losing their lives.

Battling from house to house the cavalrymen forced the bandits to retreat until the town was cleared. It took the soldiers more than an hour to accomplish this, and then their task was not over, for Villa and his men took refuge in the thick underbrush that covers the low lying hills along the border, and prepared to give battle if pursued. In retreating the bandits saw an opportunity for fresh loot, and as they went stopped long enough to attack and rob the ranch of J. J. Moore, where the proprietor and his wife made a gallant defense. Moore was killed and his wife was wounded by the bandits, who then set fire to the house and continued their flight toward Boca Grande.

CAVALRY IN PURSUIT

If they thought that they were going to get off scott free they were mistaken in their man. For without waiting for orders from his superiors Colonel Slocum ordered Maj. Frank Tompkins, with a force of two hundred and fifty men, to follow. The hard riding cavalrymen managed to overtake the bandits five miles south of the

Fully Two Hundred Villistas Drop Wounded By Pursuing Cavalry

line, where the broken country smoothed out and gave the heavier American horses a chance to show their greater speed.

Villa chose to stand when he saw that it was to be a running fight unless he did so. Besides the Mexicans by this time had augmented their forces until they must have numbered at least fifteen hundred men. As the advance guard of the Americans came in touch with the bandits they were met with a heavy discharge that killed one private, whose name as not yet been reported, and wounded Capt. Geo. Williams, adjutant, who was with the squadron.

VILLA DRAWS OFF MEN

The fighting here did not last long, and Villa began to draw off his men, leaving a rear-guard screen to hold the Americans in check, while his main body moved further south and west. It is believed, however, that he lost heavily in proportion to the numbers engaged, for the Americans estimate that at least seventy-five Mexicans were killed in the fight south of the border, and two hundred wounded.

In the chase one of the Thirteenth cavalrymen picked up a valise, which proved to have been dropped by General Villa himself. In it were a number of papers, among which was a general order to his men, instructing

them to "kill all Americans you may find."

FIGHTING IS FORCED

Sticking like leeches to the retreating Mexicans the cavalrymen followed them deeper into Mexico, and twice more brought them to a halt and forced them to fight. Three skirmishes in all were fought, before Major Tompkins decided that he was getting too far from his base, and returned to the north side of the line and reported to his commanding officer.

In the mean time Colonel Slocum had sent messages to the rest of his command and had gathered most of his regiment about him and is reported to be ready to resume the pursuit at once, unless ordered to remain where he is.

SLOCUM MAY PURSUE

Early in the day, immediately after clearing Columbus of the bandits, Colonel Slocum had sent to one of the senators from Mexico, a message which read: "Will pursue until we have captured the whole bunch."

It is believed that the administration intends to give the army a free hand in the attempt to catch the bandits, as such an action is not to be considered an invasion of Mexico.

In certain official circles it is generally admitted that the situation is

(Continued on Page 3)